

MINNESOTA WETLANDS RESERVE PROGRAM EASEMENT EVALUATION WORKSHEET

I. ENVIRONMENTAL SCORE

A. GEOGRAPHIC PRIORITY – FROM APPENDIX 1

SCORE _____
(maximum 20 points)

B. LANDSCAPE SIGNIFICANCE

RESULTANT WETLAND TYPE								
Depressional – Upland : Wetland Ratio				Floodplain – Ponding and Flood Frequency			Non-depressional (flats, swales, bogs)	
<i>Number of Restorable Basins</i>	≥1:1	0.5:1 - .9:1	<0.5:1	<i>Easement Size</i>	Frequently flooded or ponded	Other	<i>Easement Size</i>	
≥ 5	15	10	5	≥ 120	10	5	≥ 120	3
3 – 4	10	5	3	40 – 119	5	3	40 – 119	1
< 3	5	3	3	< 40	3	0	< 40	0
								Score _____

C. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY BENEFITS

RESULT OF RESTORATION PRACTICE						
PRESENT HYDROLOGIC MANIPULATION	Depressional > 80% of hydrology restored	Depressional 30 -79% of hydrology restored	Depressional <30 % of hydrology restored	Floodplain – Hydrology restored (ex. Levee removal)	Floodplain – No hydrology manipulation	Non-depressional (flats/swales/ bogs)
PC/FW (hydrology manipulation) or wetland restored under gov't program	35	20	0	20		3
FWP	20	10	0	10	5	0
PC/ FW (woody vegetation removal)					5	0
Wetland cropped under natural conditions	5	0	0		0	0

WEIGHTED SCORE

	Point Category	% of Total Restored Wetlands	Weighted Points
• PC/FW (hydrologic manipulation), or wetland restored under a state or federal program	_____ x	_____ %	= _____ points
• FWP	_____ x	_____ %	= _____ points
• PC/FW (woody vegetation manipulation)	_____ x	_____ %	= _____ points
• W cropped under natural conditions	_____ x	_____ %	= _____ points
100 %			

Total = Score _____

TOTAL ENVIRONMENTAL SCORE _____

II. COST FACTORS

A. PER ACRE EASEMENT COST FACTOR

$$\frac{\$2000 - \text{Easement value}_{\frac{1}{2}} \text{ or Landowner lessor bid}}{400}$$

Score _____

$\frac{1}{2}$ 100% of site specific county RIM value

B. PER ACRE RESTORATION COST FACTOR

(wetland restoration + adjacent lands restoration)

- $\leq \$100$ per acre = 5
- If restoration cost is $> \$100/\text{acre}$, then use the following formula

$$\frac{\$2000 - \text{total per acre restoration cost}}{400}$$

Score _____

TOTAL FEDERAL COST SCORE _____

III. OTHER FACTORS (maximum 20 points)

- | | |
|--|----------|
| 1. Easement is <u>beneficial to</u> , and within 1 mile of breeding/population of state or federally listed Threatened or Endangered species as identified by DNR Natural Heritage Database. | 5 points |
| 2. Easement is perpetual. | 5 points |
| 3. Site is within a designated LCMR corridor. | 5 points |
| 4. Cultural resource present in the easement as identified by SHPO database. | 5 points |
| 5. Site is within 1 mile of an <u>existing</u> permanent conservation area (public land, public waters, shallow lakes, conservation easement etc). | 5 points |
| 6. Partner contribution will reduce USDA easement cost by $\geq 10\%$, or USDA restoration costs by $\geq 20\%$. | 5 points |

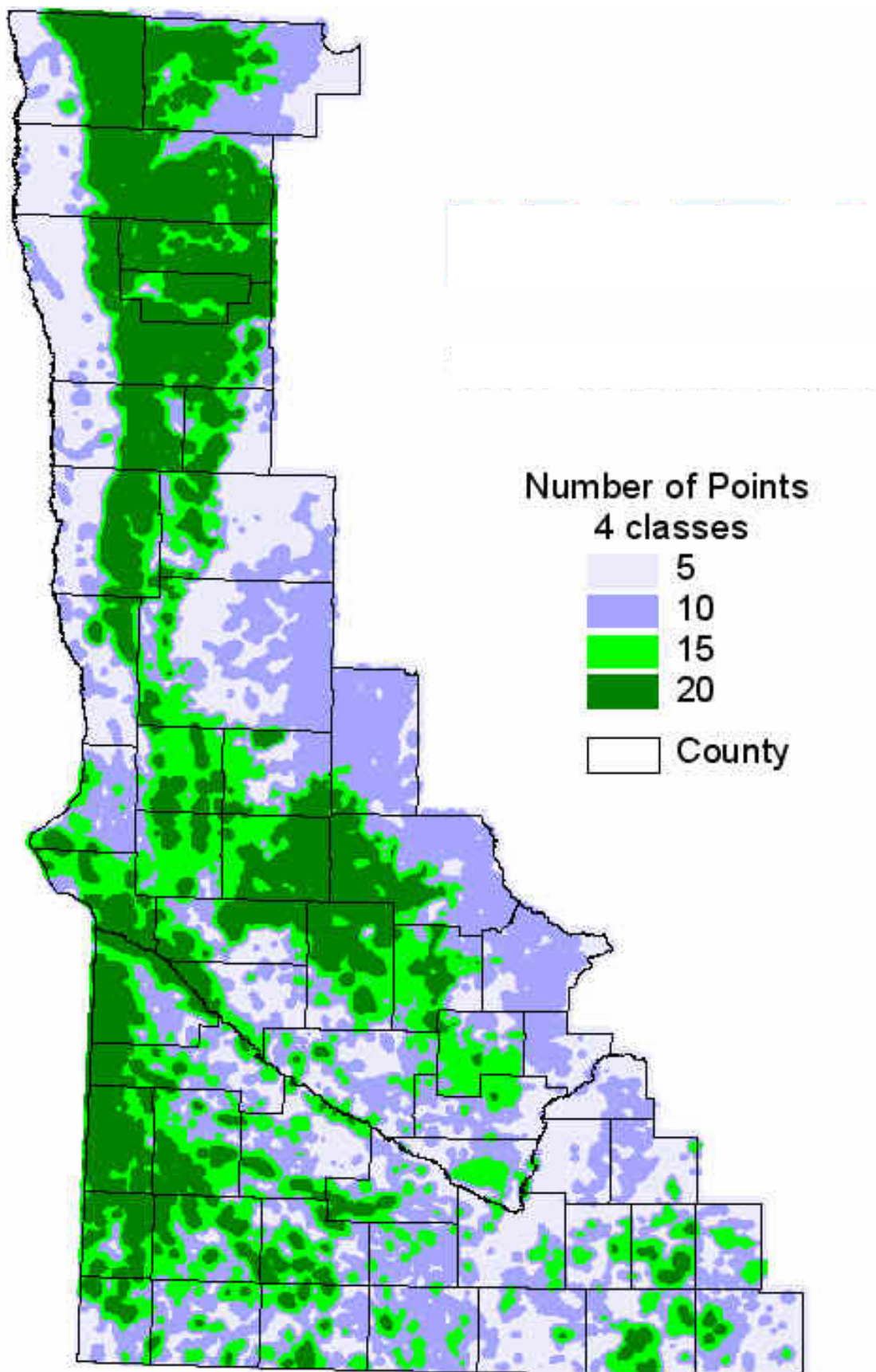
TOTAL OTHER FACTORS _____
(maximum 20 points)

IV. FINAL SCORE:

Environmental Score + Cost factor score + Other score

FINAL SCORE = _____

Appendix 1 – WRP Geographic Priority Areas. Refer to County Specific Spreadsheet for Actual Score.



Worksheet Instructions

I. ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS:

- A. **Geographic Priority:** Identify the Section where the offer is located and score appropriately. Priority areas reflect an analysis of critical habitat for migratory birds and wetland dependent wildlife, including threatened and endangered species.
- B. **Landscape Significance:** Score this factor based upon the type of wetland resulting from restoration activity, in relation to the size of the entire easement. Refer to the county hydric soils list for guidance on landscape position (depressional, floodplain, flats, swales etc.) by hydric soil map unit, and hydric criteria. General hydric criteria are as follows:

<u>SYMBOL</u>	<u>CRITERIA</u>	<u>TYPICAL LANDSCAPE LOCATION</u>
1	Organic soils	Sites may be depressional or non-depressional (county specific).
2B2, 2B3	Saturation	Sites typically non-depressional - flats, drainage ways, bogs.
3	Ponded	Sites are depressional.
4	Flooding	Sites frequently flooded for long -very long duration.

- C. **Hydrology And Water Quality Benefits:** Score this factor as the weighted sum of the restored wetland portion of the entire easement. Present hydrologic manipulation is based on USDA - Food Security Act definition.
Example: A pothole easement will have 10 ac. of restored wetlands as follows: 5 ac. of existing PC/FW, 3 ac. of existing FWP and 2 ac. of wetlands farmed under natural conditions.

WEIGHTED SCORE	Point Category		% of Total Restored Wetlands		Weighted Points
• PC/FW (hydrologic manipulation), or wetland restored under a state or federal program	<u>35</u>	x	<u>50</u> %	=	<u>17.5</u> points
• FWP	<u>20</u>	x	<u>30</u> %	=	<u>6.0</u> points
• PC/FW (woody vegetation manipulation)	<u></u>	x	<u></u> %	=	<u></u> points
• W cropped under natural conditions	<u>5</u>	x	<u>20</u> %	=	<u>1.0</u> points
					<u>24.5</u> points

II. COST FACTOR

- A. **Per Acre Easement Cost:** For purposes of evaluation, subtract the site specific county per acre 100% RIM value (or landowner lessor bid) from \$2000, and divide by 400.
- B. **Per Acre Restoration Cost:** This factor applies to the sum of the total estimated wetland and adjacent land restoration cost. Subtract the total per acre restoration cost from \$2000, and divide by 400.

III. OTHER FACTORS - Score 5 points for each of the identified factors up to a maximum of 20 points.

- Threatened and Endangered species as identified by the MDNR Natural Heritage Database must be within 1 mile of the easement, and the easement cover is beneficial to the species. For occurrences within 1.0 miles, a letter supporting the habitat benefit must be provided by USFWS for federal species and MDNR for state species. If federal or state listed species occur within the easement, NRCS will review the easement effect pursuant to GM 190, Part 410.22.
- Easement(s) which result in perpetual protection.
- Easements located within an identified LCMR corridor.
- Cultural resources as identified by the SHPO database located within the easement.
- Easement is located within 1 mile of existing permanent conservation/natural area (state and federal land, public waters, shallow lakes, conservation easement etc).
- Partner contribution will reduce USDA easement cost by $\geq 10\%$ and/or restoration cost by $\geq 20\%$.